Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Damage to the red blood cell membrane is known to occur in disease processes such as diabetes and CHF. In these diseases there is an increase in enzyme production and/or activation (neutrophil proteases, metalloproteases, sialidases and endopeptidases)that directly and/or indirectly leads to abnormal degradation of red blood cell membrane proteins (~~Gaczy□ska~~ Gaczyńska *et al.* Cytobios 75:7-11 1993; Venerando *et al.* Blood 99(3):1064-1070 2002; Wegner *et al.* Cardiovascular Research 31:891-898 1996; Piwowar *et al.* Clinical Chemistry Lab Medicine 38(12):1257-1261 2000 and Santos-Silva *et al.* Clinica Chimica Acta 320:29-35 2002).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The mouse anti-glycophorin monoclonal antibodies used in the following experiments were purchased from BioAtlantic (Nantes Cedex, France). Monoclonal antibody 6G4 recognizes amino acid residues 39-45 of SEQ ID NO:2 (glycophorin A). Monoclonal antibody 5F4 recognizes the intracellular portion of glycophorin A comprising amino acid residues 107-119 of SEQ ID NO:2. Monoclonal

antibody 3F4 recognizes the extracellular portion of glycophorins A and B amino acid residues 5-25 of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4. The binding of the 3F4 antibody to its epitope is sugar-dependent whereas the binding of the 6G4 antibody is not. These monoclonal antibodies are described in detail in Rasamoelisolo *et al.* Vox Sanguinis 72:185-191 1997.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The mouse anti-glycophorin 3F4 monoclonal antibody was deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) on April 23, 2000 as hybridoma NaM26-3F4D11A2 under Accession number PTA-5154. The American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) is located at 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209. Applicants submit that all restrictions on the availability to the public of this deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon granting of a patent in the United States.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing congestive heart failure (CHF) in a subject, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a monoclonal antibody which recognizes a glycophorin antigen comprising amino acid residues 5-25 of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) providing a monoclonal antibody which recognizes a glycophorin antigen comprising amino acid residues 39-45 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) providing a monoclonal antibody which recognizes a glycophorin antigen comprising amino acid residues 107-119 of SEQ ID NO:2;

[[A)]] (d) contacting [[a]] said monoclonal ~~antibody specific for a glycophorin antigen~~ antibodies of steps (a), (b) and (c) with a biological fluid obtained from said subject under conditions such that [[an]] antibody-antigen binding ~~complex forms~~ complexes form between said monoclonal ~~antibody~~ antibodies and said glycophorin

~~antigen~~ antigens present in said biological fluid; and

[[B)]] (e) detecting said antibody-antigen binding ~~complex~~ complexes wherein [[the]] a statistically significant increase the presence of [[said]] an antibody-antigen binding complex formed by said monoclonal antibody of step (a) and said glycohorin antigens is diagnostic for congestive heart failure (CHF).

Claim 2. (original) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said biological fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood, blood products, urine, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid and lymphatic fluid.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said monoclonal antibody of step(a) is 3F4 ~~and recognizes amino acid residues 5-25 of SEQ ID NO.2 and SEQ ID NO.4~~, said monoclonal antibody of step (b) is 6G4 and said monoclonal antibody of step (c) is 5F4.

Claims 4-6. cancelled

Claim 7. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises the steps of:

[[A)]] (a) contacting said antibody-antigen binding ~~complex~~ complexes with a polyclonal antibody corresponding to said glycophorin antigen under conditions such that a complex forms between said glycophorin antigen and said polyclonal antibody;

[[B)]] (b) attaching a label to a polyclonal antibody corresponding to the polyclonal antibody of step [[A]] (a);

[[C)]] (c) contacting the complex formed in step [[A]] (a) with the labeled polyclonal antibody formed in step [[B]] (b) under conditions such that a complex forms between said labeled polyclonal antibody and said polyclonal antibody of step [[A]] (a); and

[[C)]] (d) detecting the label on said labeled polyclonal antibody.

Claim 8. (original) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the label on said labeled polyclonal antibody comprises a signal generating substance.

Claim 9. (original) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said signal generating substance is peroxidase.